

TOWN NOTES

News from La Plata Town Hall



MAYOR'S CORNER

Summer is rapidly coming to a close, schools are back in session, and hopefully cooler weather is on the horizon. With the heavy snow falls we experienced this year together with the extensive heat waves it has been a year in which the weather has been a hot topic.

This is also an election year and the forthcoming election is a hot topic too. Even though we do not have an election in La Plata this year, it is an open season for our county, state and federal representation. A large number of candidates have indicated a willingness to serve; a good sign that our democratic system is still strong. It behooves all of us to get to know these candidates so that we can make informed decisions when we step inside the voting booth. Showing up on election day should be a given for everyone who can physically make it to the polls. Absentee ballots are available for those who cannot make it to the election sites. Still, each election cycle too many people do not vote. It is hard to justify someone voicing their displeasure with the election results if their vote was not counted. Voting is one of our most cherished rights as an American, and we must exercise it diligently.

Once in office, all elected officials have the responsibility to represent their constituents in an open and forthright manner. All major actions should be discussed in open sessions where people can attend and learn the important components of the issues and the rationale for the decisions that are made. I can assure you that your La Plata Town Counsel is committed to this goal. Our

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Trick or Treat Evening

Trick or Treat evening in La Plata is Sunday, October 31, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. As an alternative to door-to-door trick or treating, the Town continues to encourage community parties as a means of providing safe fun for our children. However, for those who allow their children to go door-to-door, we ask that you limit this to the 12 and under age group, and encourage you to accompany your children as chaperones and keep your children in their own immediate neighborhood. We encourage these safety precautions for all children who go out trick or treating:

- * **Wear reflective tape or other reflective material on your costume so you are visible as you walk along the streets.**
- * **Use a flashlight to help light your way.**
- * **Don't wear a mask that would keep you from being able to easily see vehicles or other hazards as you walk from house to house.**

All who are driving through Town during Trick or Treat Evening on October 31st are asked to be especially careful of the children walking through the neighborhoods.

End of Summer Concert Attendee Survey

This season's Friday Night Concerts at Town Hall is now complete. We would appreciate getting your feedback on the bands and the event itself. Log on to <http://www.townoflaplata.org> and take the Summer Concert Attendee Survey on the Event page. Rate the facilities, services, and most importantly the music for the August and September concerts. These responses will assist the Town in booking the bands for next year. If you know a great band that you would like to hear perform at the Town Hall, indicate so on the survey. Your opinion matters to help shape enjoyable experiences for many years to come.

Never miss a Town Event again!

Visit the Town of La Plata Events Calendar for information on Events, Meeting Schedules, Farmers Market, changes to the trash schedule, and much, much more!

The Town now has an interactive calendar on our web site www.townoflaplata.org. Click on the "Calendar" link and you will be directed to the calendar in the "EVENTS" section. You can print, save the events that interest you, or sync it to your own Google calendar.

COUNCIL COLUMN

Councilman Wayne Winkler, Ward 1

Each time this newsletter is published the Mayor and Council, are supposed to write a column regarding what is going on in La Plata. Instead of doing that, I thought it might be fun to write about La Plata itself.

Why do people move here and why do they stay? I think it has to do with the amenities La Plata has to offer. La Plata is an extremely safe place to live. We have the La Plata Police department, Charles County Sheriff, and Maryland State Police. We have a low crime rate.

Our roads are well maintained. Pot holes are repaired promptly. We do have traffic congestion on Route 6 and Washington Avenue but I think that will go away with the building of La Plata Parkway.

With the close proximity to Washington DC, Indian Head, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, and Dahlgren, we have a very low unemployment rate. We seem to have ample shopping opportunities, and more are coming.

We have good parks, and what we have is now is being evaluated to see how we can improve and also to look at our future needs.

We have a wonderful library and hospital, and the Charles County Government is seated in La Plata. Being close to the Port Tobacco River and Gilbert Run Park, we have a variety of water entertainment opportunities.

When the economic downturn changes course, and it will, I hope we will be able to complete our sidewalks so we will truly have a walking downtown.

I have lived in La Plata almost all of my life and plan to stay here because this is a great place to live.

Councilman Paddy Mudd, Ward 3

October begins an exciting time of the year for La Plata activities. We finished our Concerts on the Green the end of

September after beautiful weather and large attendance each Friday night. Most of the bands were great and we hope you will let us know which ones you loved and also those you do not want us to invite back next year.

Our Community Yard Sale is October 9th. This event has grown into a large affair with many vendors and many others looking for a bargain. Come out, have a bite to eat and look around for that special something!

On Sunday, October 24th from 12 to 4 PM we have our Fall Festival and Taste of La Plata. This has become one of our most popular events of the year. Come and have a taste of every type of foods from our local restaurants, enjoy the music and the many children's activities!

New this year we plan to have a children's Halloween Party on Saturday October 30th. Bring your young children for a costume contest and old fashioned Halloween fun!

On November 7th we hold our annual Veteran's Day parade and ceremony. This is such a special time for many of us and personally I'm really glad that it falls after Election Day this year!

The Beautification Commission plans to have our fall landscaping completed in time for these events. Please come to the Town Hall anytime to visit and enjoy your community property. You can reach me at pmudd@townofaplata.org or (301) 934-4804.

Councilman Joseph W. Norris, Ward 4

Our National Night Out in early August was a great success. Many of the Neighborhood Watch Councils in town sponsored their neighborhood "Get Togethers" with food and games. For those neighborhoods without a Neighborhood Watch Council the town held an event at town hall. The purpose of this is for all of us to stand up against crime. If your neighborhood does not have a Crime Watch Council get in touch with Sgt. Bill Brooks of the La Plata Police Department and

he will guide you through the process. He can be reached at (301) 934-1500 or wbrooks@townofaplata.org. If you would like to attend a Crime Watch Council meeting to observe or learn more, they take place the first Wednesday of the month 7:30 P.M. at the La Plata Police Department on La Grange Avenue.

About the time you receive this newsletter we should have final word on our grant request for new restroom facilities at Tilghman Lake Park. We are also applying for a new grant to build a parking lot and pier at Tilghman Lake. This will be our premier park facility once we are able to get these amenities in place.

My family has been enjoying the fresh vegetables from the La Plata Farmers Market this summer. Stop in and see what they have to offer. They are in the Court House Parking Lot off Washington Avenue, and operate each Wednesday and Saturday starting at 8 A.M.

I hope you were able to come out and enjoy our Friday Night Concerts and the Screen on the Green movies. The concerts were great, and well attended. We will be looking forward to next summer's series. Also remember the Community Yard Sale on October 9 at town hall and on October 24 we will have our La Plata Fall Festival featuring Taste of La Plata. Our Salute to Veterans takes place on November 7 starting at 1 PM with a parade ending at town hall where our ceremony will take place.

For information on all the activities in town visit our website (www.townofaplata.org). Also to help us get specialized information to you quickly please register your email with the town. Just send it to Carolyn Johnson at cjohnson@townofaplata.org.

As always if you have any questions, comments or issues, I may be reached by phone at (301) 934-9230 or by email at jnorris@townofaplata.org. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Conservation Corner

Mulch Your Leaves

Autumn is a season we associate with harvest, family, football, outdoor festivals, and the changing colors of our landscape. Each year many of your neighbors spend hours raking, bagging, and removing those fallen leaves from our properties. Again this year the Town would like to encourage its residents to not utilize one of its popular services, leaf collection.

In this newsletter there is information about when the Town will be driving through our neighborhoods collecting leaves. They come through, three people per truck, along with a leaf vacuum machine that clears the road edges of leaves that our neighbors have raked to the curb. The leaves are shredded and blown into a leaf box. The truck then drives the leaves to the landfill to be turned into compost which is used by Charles County. Each year, La Plata property owners



send tons of organic material away from their property, reducing the amount of nutrients available for future plant growth.

This year benefit the environment in your own yard. First, use a mulching mower on your property, and mulch in fallen leaves to return organic material to your lawn. By taking the catcher off your mower, the grass and leaf clippings will fall below the blades of grass and decompose into natural fertilizer.

If your home has more leaves than you want to mulch back onto the ground, just compost them. By composting your trimmings, weeds, and leaves, natural processes will biodegrade that material, and turn it into valuable mulch you can reuse on your property. By mulching plants and trees, organic material is added to the soil, which helps retain moisture, and keeps roots warm during the winter and cool during summer months.

Use green landscaping techniques, keep organic material on your property, use appropriate plants and seed varieties to achieve a beautiful property and healthier landscapes that are good for the environment as well. It will not only help your yard, but save the Town staff time spent collecting and disposing of yard waste, reduce fuel consumption of Town vehicles, and reduce wear on equipment. Please utilize alternatives to raking leaves to the curb this fall. Before we were here, these trees lost their leaves in the same spot, and nature returned them to soil for the benefit of the same trees.

CITIZEN SURVEY

It is hard to believe that it has been nearly a year since we conducted our Citizen Survey. We are in the planning stages of conducting another Citizen Survey in late November or December. The results of these surveys are very important in helping the Town Council plan for the future and budgeting.

A randomly selected group of 1,200 Town of La Plata residents will receive the National Citizen Survey questionnaire. The questionnaire will be asking for feedback on the quality and usefulness of Town services. Residents who receive the Survey are encouraged to complete and return it.

MAYOR'S CORNER (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

deliberations are keyed to representing the entire Town and doing what is best for the Town as a whole. We do not have a crystal ball and we are not infallible, but I assure we are all committed to keeping La Plata the best community in our great State.

We are pleased to welcome Panera Bread to our Town and look forward to the addition of Valvoline and Dairy Queen in the near future. We also deeply regret that 3 Brothers Restaurant closed recently. The new businesses add to the products and services that are available locally to our residents. The wide variety of shopping and dining opportunities available today in La Plata, that did not exist a few short years ago, is undoubtedly one of the major changes that it is a common source of pride for our community.

Our Friday night concert series was once again a major success. With the military bands and the other musical groups we were able to provide a wide variety of music that prompted large audiences. Please pick up a copy of our events schedule and make a point of attending as many of these events as you can work into your busy schedules. Many of your neighbors already attend, so we would like to see you there too.

As your Mayor, I will always welcome your comments be they positive or critical. You may call me at Town Hall (301) 934-8421 or at home (301) 934-4850.

Town Hall Closed

The Town Hall will be closed on the following days:

- Veterans Day** **Thursday, November 11**
- Thanksgiving Day** **Thursday, November 25**
- Day after Thanksgiving** **Friday, November 26**

If you have a **water or sewer emergency** after hours, call (301) 934-8421 and follow the instructions given to report your emergency. The automated response system will alert the appropriate department to respond to you.

TOWN OF LA PLATA OFFICIALS

Mayor: Roy G. Hale

Council:

- Wayne Winkler Ward 1
- C. Keith Back Ward 2
- Paddy Mudd Ward 3
- Joseph W. Norris Ward 4

Town Manager:

Daniel J. Mears

Treasurer: Robert W. Oliphant

Assistant Town Manager:

Michelle D. Miner

Town Clerk: Danielle Mandley

Project Manager: Steven F. Schroeder

Police Chief: Cassin B. Gittings

Director of Inspections: Jorge A. Thompson

Director of Municipal Development:

David M. Jenkins

Director of Planning and Zoning:

Catherine N. Flerlage

Director of Operations: Robert F. Stahl, Jr.

Director of Public Works:

Jeffrey S. Garner

305 Queen Anne Street,
La Plata, Maryland 20646

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Telephone: 301-934-8421 / 301-870-3377

La Plata Police Department: 301-934-1500

Email: mminer@townoflaplata.org

Website: www.townoflaplata.org

LA PLATA TOWN SERVICES

Hazardous Waste Collection

Household hazardous waste collection days for 2010 resumed the first Saturday in April and continue on the first Saturday of each month through December from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Charles County Sanitary Landfill on Billingsley Road East between Piney Church Road and Route 5 in Waldorf.

Items accepted free of charge include pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer, gasoline, motor oil, antifreeze, paint, cleaning supplies, pool chemicals, batteries, expired prescription drugs, and other poisons that are around your house. Please keep the materials in their original containers whenever possible, and bring them to the collection site in cardboard boxes to ease unloading.

Household hazard waste collection dates for the remainder of 2010 are: October 2, November 6, and December 4.

For more information, call the Charles County Department of Public Facilities at (301) 932-3599 or (301) 870-2778, or the landfill information service at (301) 932-5656.

Special Trash Pickup

Bulk items are picked up the first Monday of each month, or the following Monday if the first one is a holiday. Large amounts of loose material (such as brush) should be bundled or bagged in such a manner that the weight is less than 50 lbs. The Town reserves the right not to pick up items too heavy to safely handle. General construction cleanup and hazardous materials are not eligible. Items must be at curbside by 7:30 a.m. on pickup day. Call Town Hall before pickup day to be placed on the list.

Minimum fee: \$11.75 for 5 minutes loading time; each additional minute is \$1.10. A fee of \$6.00, or the current Landfill disposal fee, shall be charged for each tire collected. Billing for special trash pickup is included on your quarterly utility bill.

Loose Leaf Pick Up Schedule

The Town of La Plata Public Works Department will be offering loose leaf collection from October 18, 2010 to December 17, 2010. The crews will be picking up this year on the same schedule as last year, so there will be no need to contact the Town Hall for pick-up service. The Town would like to ask our residents to support our going green program by mulching your leaves and using it for fertilizer for your yards. For our residents who wish to bag their leaves the pick-up will be on our yard waste schedule of Mondays and Fridays.

The loose leaf pick up schedule will be as follows and is subject to change:

October 18, 2010 – October 22, 2010 and November 15, 2010 – November 19, 2010

Kings Grant, Agricopia, Quailwood, Port Tobacco Road, West Hawthorne Drive and adjacent side streets.

October 25, 2010 – October 29, 2010 and November 29, 2010 – December 3, 2010

St. Mary's Avenue, Oak Avenue, Washington Avenue, Charles Street, Hickory Ridge and adjacent side streets.

November 1, 2010 – November 12, 2010 and December 6, 2010 – December 17, 2010

Clarks Run

There will be no pick-up the week of November 22, 2010.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Public Works Department at (301) 934-8421 or mtrollinger@townofaplata.org

Yard Waste Pick Up

Residential yard waste pickup will only take place on Monday and Fridays. Containers must be of yard waste ONLY – leaves, grass, and shrub clippings, brush or branches may be put out on Mondays and Fridays. The containers must be marked "Yard Waste". Brush or branches must be bundled, weigh no more than 50 lbs. per bundle, and the branches may not be larger than 4 feet long. *Plastic bags are not allowed – if you bag yard waste you must use paper bags.*

Trash Collection Schedule Adjustment

If your regular trash collection day is:

Veterans Day

Thursday, November 11

Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 25

Trash will be picked up on:

Wednesday, November 10

Wednesday, November 24

Code Corner: Pet Responsibilities

No person in possession of an animal shall walk or exercise such animal without being in possession of a container sufficient to immediately remove and dispose of the animal's excreta in a sanitary manner.

It is unlawful for any person or owner in possession of an animal to fail to remove any of the animal's excreta deposited on the public ways, recreational parks or other property, public or private, not owned by the person or owner in possession of the animal.

No person shall permit an animal to be at large at anytime within the town. Each animal shall be confined to the property of its owner or the person who has its possession or control, except when the pet is leashed, harnessed or otherwise similarly and securely restrained and accompanied by its owner or keeper.

Public Hearing Procedures

The Town Council, Planning Commission and Board of Appeals conduct Public Hearings for the purpose of hearing public comments regarding proposed: Zoning Applications; Town Code changes, Petition for Annexation; Variances, and; Special Exception Applications. The community is encouraged to attend the Public Hearings and all other meetings. Please visit the Town web site www.townofaplata.org for information on meeting schedules, agenda's, notices, Public Hearing Procedures and contact information. For further information, please contact Danielle Mandley, Town Clerk, at (301) 934-8421, or via email dmandley@townofaplata.org

OCTOBER 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
					Yard Waste Pick-Up	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Yard Waste Pick-Up Special Pick-Up (call by 4:00 p.m. Oct 1 to schedule)	Planning Commission meeting; 7:00 p.m.	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Design Review Board meeting; 9:00 a.m. Crime Watch Council; 7:30 p.m.		Yard Waste Pick-Up	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Community Yard Sale; 8:00 a.m. to noon
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Yard Waste Pick-Up	Town Council work session; 7:00 p.m.	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Parks and Recreation Meeting; 5:00 p.m.		Yard Waste Pick-Up	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Yard Waste Pick-Up Beautification Commission Meeting; 4:00 p.m.	Town Council work session; 7:00 p.m.	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Design Review Board meeting; 9:00 a.m.		Yard Waste Pick-Up	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Fall Festival featuring Taste of La Plata Noon to 4:00 p.m.	24/31	25	26	27	28	29
Trick or Treat; 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Yard Waste Pick-Up	Town Council regular meeting; 7:00 p.m.	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.		Yard Waste Pick-Up	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Harvest Party; 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
						30

NOVEMBER 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Yard Waste Pick-Up Special Pick-Up (call by 4:00 p.m. Oct 29 to schedule)	Planning Commission meeting; 7:00 p.m.	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Design Review Board meeting; 9:00 a.m. Crime Watch Council; 7:30 p.m.		Yard Waste Pick-Up	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Salute to Veterans parade and ceremony; 1:00 p.m.	Yard Waste Pick-Up	Town Council work session; 7:00 p.m.	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Parks and Recreation Meeting; 5:00 p.m. Trash pick-up for Nov. 11	Town Hall closed for Veterans Day No trash service Trash pick-up rescheduled to Nov. 10	Yard Waste Pick-Up	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Yard Waste Pick-Up Beautification Meeting; 4:00 p.m.	Town Council work session; 7:00 p.m.	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Design Review Board meeting; 9:00 a.m.		Yard Waste Pick-Up	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Yard Waste Pick-Up	Town Council regular meeting; 7:00 p.m.	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Trash pick-up for Nov. 25	Town Hall closed for Thanksgiving No trash service Trash pick-up rescheduled to Nov. 24	Yard Waste Pick-Up Town Hall closed Regular trash pick-up	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
28	29	30				
	Yard Waste Pick-Up					

SPECIAL EVENTS

Summer Concert Series



A big thank you to everyone who joined us at La Plata Town Hall during the Summer 2010 concert season. What a wonderful series it turned out to be! Friends, family, and neighbors came out every Friday evening for a wide-ranging variety of live shows. Classic rock, blues, jazz, country, show tunes, band music, vocals, and instrumentals – we had a taste of everything! We enjoyed many of Southern Maryland's talented acts, regional groups, and the US Navy Bands. Residents favorites will be invited back again next Summer.



The Kids' Zone play area is a big hit with parents and kids; this year an on-line survey allows concert goers to give us feedback about the concerts; and video of our concerts are on YouTube! www.youtube.com/user/LaPlataEvents



Fall Events

Fall Festival / Taste of La Plata Sunday October 24, 2010 12N – 4PM

There's plenty in store yet for 2010. Another Town of La Plata favorite returns on October 24th when we celebrate the autumn with our annual Fall Festival / Taste of La Plata. It's a great way to get to know our local eateries and sample some of their top menu items. Of course, the event will include activities for children, entertainment, and lots of family fun. Tickets for tasting are \$1 a piece; the activities for families are free.

You'll know the time is near when you see the street of La Plata populated with Scarecrows, courtesy of the Chamber of Commerce. Their Scarecrow Festival kicks off this autumn tradition, with the winning entries announced at the start of the Fall Festival.



It's not too late to sign up to be a vendor at the Taste of La Plata. If you're interested, or simply need more information about this or any other Town of La Plata Special Event, contact Marcia Keeth at mkeeth@townofaplata.org or (301) 934-8421 ext. 142.

Veterans' Day Parade Sunday, November 7, 2010 1PM



Our annual "Salute to Veterans" Parade takes place on Sunday November 7th, starting at the Charles County Government building in La Plata. We'll end at La Plata Town Hall with a ceremony to honor our veterans immediately following. To participate in the parade, download a form on our website, www.townofaplata.org, or contact Marcia Keeth at mkeeth@townofaplata.org.

Fall Community Yard Sale Saturday October 9, 2010 8AM to 12N

What a great way to clean out the closet or pick up a bargain! Our Town of La Plata Community Yard Sale is the ultimate recycling event as everyone comes together to sell their unwanted items all in one place, all at one time.

The sale takes place on the grounds of Town Hall. A table is just \$10, with a limit of two. Contact Marcia Keeth for more information, (301) 934-8421.

Harvest Party Saturday October 30th 11AM – 1PM La Plata Town Hall

We've added a new event to our calendar, a Halloween Harvest Party for the children. We'll have snacks, crafts, and entertainment for kids. Costumes are encouraged! Check our website for more details, or contact Marcia Keeth at (301) 934-8421.

Old Tyme Holiday Gathering Sunday, December 5th 3PM to 6PM La Plata Town Hall

The sounds and spirit of the holiday season bring friends and neighbors together for an afternoon of good cheer. Join us for holiday music, story telling, light refreshments, Santa's arrival by fire truck and the lighting of the Town Christmas Tree. For more information contact Marcia Keeth at (301) 934-8421.

WEBSITE POLL



Visit the Town of La Plata's website at <http://www.townoflaplata.org> to participate in an on-line poll. Click on the 'Snap Poll' link on the left side of the web page to go to the poll and see the results to date. The current question is:

The storm water system near me is inadequate.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't Know

August Website Poll Results

Below are the website 'Snap Poll' results from

the last issue. The question and results are:

Are La Plata's park and recreational facilities meeting your needs?

Yes – 55%

No – 45%

Responses to survey questions like these, as well as the full park survey that residents responded to online in June, July, and August provide valuable information to the Town as it plans for La Plata's future. This question provides a basic check to see whether the community is being served by the Town's current services. Nearly half of these survey respondents feel underserved by La Plata's parks and recreational facilities. As La Plata grows, maintaining the existing park system would likely result in a higher percentage

feeling under-served.

Growth in the community will result in a greater desire for recreational amenities, and the Town is working to identify what those needs are, and how to deliver those services. The proposed Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan is under development, and your feedback has been helpful in determining future service needs. The plan will serve as a guide for future facilities, and will soon be available for public comment on the plan and costs associated with implementation. Please look for an announcement of the next opportunity for public comment.

TESTING OF EARLY WARNING DEVICES/SIRENS

The Town of La Plata will test our early warning devices/sirens on **Saturday, December 11, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.** Testing is done twice per year in early May and early December. The testing lasts about a half hour. The tests consist of both siren alerts and audible notifications. The tests are conducted in conjunction with the Charles County 911 Communications Center, which controls and operates the system for the Town.

The devices are installed at the following locations:

- On Charles Street in front of the Charles County Courthouse
- On Curley Hall Road at the Town's Wastewater Treatment Plant (near Quailwood Subdivision)
- In Clarks Run Subdivision
- In King's Grant Subdivision

- On Shining Willow Way next to the La Plata Volunteer Fire Department

Emergency Management Officials remind you that in the event of a real emergency to stay tuned to local radio stations for more information, to have emergency supplies on hand - including a radio which can be operated during a power outage, and to know where the safe haven is in your home. It is everyone's responsibility to plan for an emergency.

EFFICIENCY CORNER - VOLUNTEER FOR IT GROUP

The Town is increasingly relying on technology to improve the efficiency of its operations and the effectiveness of its service delivery. It is making significant investments in hardware and software as part of this effort to utilize the benefits of today's information technology (IT). The Town is presently upgrading its finance system to streamline payroll, accounts payable, utility billing, and budgeting. Investments in police technology are enhancing officer's effectiveness in the field. Our utility systems have been upgraded with state of the art monitoring. The Town is incorporating the use of digital video recording and other technologies into our operations as well.

The Town's staff currently has limited IT expertise and relies on part-time IT consultants to handle the more technical tasks that must be performed to maintain the system and keep it operational. This arrangement is working well for the Town and has proven to be a cost effective way to manage the day-to-day operations of the Town's IT infrastructure.

While this arrangement satisfies the day-to-day operational needs, the Town has a need for comprehensive IT planning to coordinate and guide future technology implementation. The Town would like to utilize the expertise within the community to ensure it is making investments in its IT infrastructure in a

coordinated and effective manner. The Town is forming an Information Technology Advisory Committee. The committee would be comprised of members of the community with IT and Information Systems knowledge and expertise that they can use to advise the Town.

Citizen volunteers are valued in the Town of La Plata and serve their home town in a variety of capacities. If you or someone you know would be interested in serving on this committee, please contact Danielle Mandley at (301) 934-8421, or by email dmandley@townoflaplata.org. You can also download an application on the Town web site, www.townoflaplata.org under the "Applications" tab.

NOW OPEN IN LA PLATA AND COMING SOON TO LA PLATA

Commercial Occupancy Permits Issued 7/3-8/31

Capitol One Bank
20 Shining Willow Way

Washington Avenue Realty
305 Centennial Street Ste D

Unique Rug Collection
6790 Crain Highway

Varinsic, Inc.
103 Centennial Street Ste H

My Salon
6390 Crain Highway

Panera
3 Shining Willow Way

Commercial Building Permits issued 7/3-8/31

Port Tobacco Consulting
103 Centennial Street Ste #204

Mark Hochman, DDS
105 Centennial Street Ste C

Law Offices
204 Washington Avenue Ste #200

ART SHOW



Bernie's Frame Shop and the Charles County Arts Alliance will be hosting an art show featuring The Corner Studio Art Group and Nancy Owens. The event will take place at Bernie's on Saturday, October 2nd from 3pm - 5pm. Enjoy lovely oil, pastel, pen & ink, watercolor and mixed media art.

Bernie's Frame Shop is located at:

205 E. Charles St.
La Plata, MD
301-392-5322

Meet the Town Staff



Marcia Keeth is the Town's new Special Events Coordinator.

Marcia is familiar to many in the Town, having spent the last 8 years working for the County's economic development office where she directed marketing, business attractions, and business development efforts for Charles County. She also served as that department's acting director.

Marcia has lived in Charles County for over 20 years. She moved to Waldorf from North Carolina in 1989 when she took a job at Westwood One Radio Networks in Arlington producing nationally syndicated radio programs. She had been a radio producer in Raleigh, and after leaving the network in 2001, she spent some time on the air locally, doing news for Southern Maryland Radio's Star FM and sister stations. In 2002, Marcia's marketing and public relations background led her to a second career in economic development and local government.

Marcia has lived on Cobb Island for the last 4 years with her musician husband, John O'Loughlin, Tess the dog, and Biscuit the cat. Marcia is delighted to be working for the Town of La Plata and is enjoying the opportunity to meet so many nice people and contribute to the Town's quality of life.

LA PLATA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



ASKEY, ASKEY & ASSOCIATES ANNOUNCES NEW PARTNER

Askey, Askey & Associates CPA, LLC, a certified public accounting/business consulting firm serving the Southern Maryland

region, is pleased to announce the appointment of Glenn R. Frank, III, CPA to partner effective immediately. Glenn will lead the firm's tax practice and will also play a key role in the firm's business consulting practice, providing technical accounting and advisory services.

Glenn joined Askey, Askey & Associates CPA, LLC in December of 2006. After graduating from the University of Maryland, Glenn worked for 5 years at a local Southern Maryland CPA firm where he first met Robert W. Askey, CPA, CFE, CFFA. Early in his career Glenn developed a focus on client service out of a genuine desire to help others. For 16 years Glenn served in the tax practice of RSM McGladrey, Inc., a leading national business consulting, accounting and tax firm. Glenn's position with McGladrey was as Manager, Tax Services in their Alexandria, Virginia office. His experience involves a wide variety of business consulting in tax related activities such as corporation and S-Corporation planning; partnership planning; individual tax planning, and administrative dealings with the Internal

Revenue Service. He has broad experience within many industries including technology, real estate and construction, wholesalers and retailers, telecommunications, restaurateurs, professional and legal service organizations.

"We are extremely delighted that Glenn has agreed to join Askey, Askey & Associates, CPA, LLC as our Partner," said Robert W. Askey, CPA, CFE, CFFA, Managing Partner of Askey, Askey & Associates, CPA, LLC. "He brings a wealth of current technical accounting and tax knowledge to the firm, as well as significant financial services experience."



THE 2ND ANNUAL LA PLATA CHILI COOK OFF AND THE WINNERS ARE ...

Everyone! Several hundred people came out and enjoyed the day on the grounds of La Plata Town Hall at the Annual La Plata Chili Cook Off. A fun time was had by all. There were games and activities, great music, sunshine, tasty treats, and of course all kinds of chili.



Seventeen teams entered 19 different chilis. Some were spicy, some were sweet; some were meaty and others meatless. There was peppery chili, mild chili, hot chili, and even one cold "chili" entered by the creative staff at Rita's Ice. Judges were Helen Heier of the Charles County Chamber of Commerce, John Flatley of Chick-Fil-A La Plata, Sarah Swann of Hospice of Charles County, and Stephanie Wesolowski of Sommers Middle School. While the four volunteers sampled and rated each entry, emcee Paul Comfort interviewed the teams' chief chefs who shared some – though not all – of their chili secrets. Meanwhile, the public went from booth to booth, tasting the entries and casting votes for their favorites.



Cris Curtis, People's Choice Award Winner

Meanwhile, children of all ages were enjoying the games and activities. There was the Alligator Alley obstacle course, Moon Bounce, Wrecking Ball, open air art classes, letter bead jewelry making, and photos in the Big Red Chair. Southern Maryland's own Three Sixty Band provided a steady stream of classic rock hits. And edibles for sale included Rita's Ice, Circus Ice Cream, crab cakes from Prime Street Grill, Sir Pops-A-Lot popcorn, and hot dogs and snacks from the Town Hall concession booth operated by Lifestyles of Maryland.



Other visitors included two Chick-Fil-A cows, the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs' Pinch, and Rita's Ice Guy who mingled with the crowd and never missed a photo op. Kids also got an up close look at a fire truck courtesy of the La Plata Volunteer Fire Department and a police cruiser from the La Plata Police Department.

A slide show of the event has been posted on the La Plata events page at www.townoflaplata.org.



Winners David Bullard and Phil Jones with Chili Cook Off emcee Paul Comfort

Chili Cook Off Winners were:

TEAM	CHIEF CHEF	CATEGORY	PLACE
La Plata Volunteer Fire Department	Jay Johnson	Firehouse Challenge	1 st
Team BJ	David Bullard & Phil Jones	Meat only	1 st
Black Mamba	Chris Chippa	Traditional	1 st
Marie's Diner	Bobby Cooper	Traditional	2 nd
Baldus Residential	Cris Curtis	Traditional	3 rd
Team Wade	Mandy Wade	Vegetarian	1 st
Todd Jewell	Todd Jewell	Vegetarian	2 nd
Bostwick Brigade	Gene Bostwick	Vegetarian	3 rd
Baldus Residential	Cris Curtis	People's Choice Award	

TOWN OF LA PLATA

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